Route 12, Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

October 9, 1975

Mr. Hedrick Smith
National News Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Smith:

Martin Waldron, who has some familiarity with my work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. and John F. Kennedy Assassinations, suggests that I write you about a proposal I made to him and that he can in confidence discuss with you more fully.

I have completed a long and I believe definitive and irrefutable work on the most essential aspects of the real evidence in the JFK case. This comes from what the Warren Commission did not have, what it did not use and others did not find or did not understand; what I obtained by a series of Freedom of Information lawsuits; what some agencies would let me have rather than risk the potential of a lawsuit; and other personal investigations. It consists of official documents and pictures.

The book is in manufacture and I will be able to control when it becomes available. It is 660 pages, of which 22 or 44 columns are index and close to a third of the remainder is facsimile reproduction of evidence, almost all of which is new and some of which was top secret. In every case I obtained what I have with complete propriety.

This is an extraordinarily Byzantine work. However, among its literary liabilities are its length and the fact that normal commercial distribution will be denied me.

One of the desires I have is for a condensation and the other is for news syndicate use which I would understand to be before the book itself is available and to which I would readily agree if there is no long delay.

With The New York Times which has a syndicate and a book publishing affiliate, there can be a common interest.

The condensation and popularization I have in mind is one to which I would stipulate only two conditions: fidelity to the unabridged work and the shortest possible hardback so that it could sell for the lowest possible price. I think that if there were to be news service stories, they would provide the basis for such a hardback condensation.

The status of the book is this: The negatives have been shot and are in the hands of the printer who will have to fit it into an extraordinarily tight production schedule. Whenever he completes manufacture, it will take five days for the books to readh Frederick, after which they will have to be transferred to another truck for delivery to me. A few copies will be sent faster. A set of proofs will be in my hands next week. I have an obligation to make this available to a Church sommittee subcommittee and I have committed myself to do this. However, there is a precondition of no use until after the book is available.

I have a number of books partly written and largely entirely new. To the degree I can forecast what the immediate future will permit me, in part because I am a small publisher and have to ship most of the books I sell myself, I plan to return to a work aspects of which John Crewdson discussed with me last week. Its tentative title is "Agent Oswald." From conversation with Crewdson, I assume a Times interest. I am under pressure from friends to complete this work so that it can be used by the Senate. If, as I hope, the Church committee restricts itself to establishing the basis for a full Senate investigation, a basis I believe my new book alone more than provides, I should have time to complete at least a draft.

Two of the Freedom of Information lawsuits I have filed and one I did not have to file because I was given what I asked for at the last moment were for this book. I believe that it, too, would lend itself to serialization, and I assure you the last thing I want to do is publish it myself.

Prior to speaking to Mo, I did tell John that when he has time and on the basis of confidence he can see what I have.

I will be away much of the week of the 19th.

If my opinion means anything to you, I believe this work can represent a rare opportunity. I am a former reporter, an investigative reporter, Senate investigator and editor, and intelligence analyst. Mo has seen that my work on the King case was neither challenged nor cross-examined nor rebutted. There came a point during that evidentiary hearing when he paid me a compliment I will never forget.

It was during a break. He came up to me and with a straight face said, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself?" I asked him why. Without cracking a smile he said, "For fuckin' up the whole FBI, the state of Tennessee and Shelby County."

You will find that the documentation of Post-Mortem is of this character.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

cc: Martin Waldron
John Crewdson